TED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1969
31 August 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* NATO air strikes continue; Bosnian Serbs do not respond to UN demand; fate of two French pilots unconfirmed.

* Russian Ambassador expresses concern to Secretary-General over scale of air strikes and safety of Russian battalion.

* WHO says medical response to Monday's attack on Sarajevo was excellent.

* UNDP Beijing Express arrives in Chinese capital.

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United Nations authorized NATO air operations over Bosnia continued today, although inclement weather over Sarajevo was reported to be having a limiting effect on the operations. According to a United Nations Spokesman, the air strikes will continue until Sarajevo is no longer under threat.

At a press conference in Naples this morning, Admiral Leighton Smith, NATO's Commander of the Allied Forces of Southern Europe, said success of the attacks had been significant. He said more than 300 sorties were flown yesterday and 23 specific Bosnian Serb targets had been hit, including parts of the Serb integrated air defence system and installations such as ammunition depots and an underground command and control post.

The United Nations has not received a formal response to UNPF Force Commander Bernard Janvier's letter to Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic, which specified that the principal conditions which the Bosnian Serbs must fulfil for air strikes to stop is that all attacks or threat of attacks against the Sarajevo safe area cease.

According to a United Nations spokesman, the United Nations has no confirmed information on the fate of two French pilots who ejected from their plane yesterday after it was hit near Pale.

The Rapid Reaction Force yesterday fired over 500 rounds in less than 24 hours. Targets included anti-aircraft weapons from the Bosnian Serb side that were firing at NATO planes, as well as at artillery and mortar positions

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firing on UNPROFOR locations. Several UNPROFOR facilities were shelled by the Bosnian Serbs yesterday including two camps and one barrack. The entrance to the Russian battalion's main camp was blocked by a Serb tank.

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The Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Ambassador Sergey Lavrov, has expressed his concern to the Secretary-General about the scale of NATO air strikes in Bosnia. In a meeting he requested yesterday, the Russian Ambassador expressed his feeling that the strikes were not in conformity with relevant Security Council resolutions. He also expressed concern about the safety of the Russian battalion, which is situated in a Bosnian-Serb controlled section of Sarajevo.

According to a United Nations Spokesman, the Secretary-General reiterated that the air strikes were authorized by the United Nations and had his full support.

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The response by the medical community to Monday's massacre in Sarajevo was excellent. That is the assessment of the World Health Organization (WHO), which says that within minutes, an effective triage system was in place, eleven operating theatres were functioning, sufficient amounts of blood were available and hospitals had transmitted their needs to the WHO. The agency and the International Committee of the Red Cross worked in close cooperation with other humanitarian organizations, such as Medecins sans Frontieres, to give needed help to the victims.

The WHO has expressed extreme concern about the continuing magnitude of war-related deaths, injuries and suffering in Sarajevo in this fourth year of war, as well as the anguish of loss, or fear of loss, experienced by many families and friends.

* * *

After a seven-day journey across two continents, the Beijing Express has arrived in China's capital city. The train, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), carried 200 passengers, mainly from Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS, to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

The train, which departed Warsaw on 21 August, arrived in Beijing Monday night after tracing the route of the Trans-Siberian railway, crossing 5,734 miles and seven time zones. Passengers would not have been able to participate in the Beijing Conference without the backing of UNDP and its supporters. The journey included an intensive programme of workshops on issues related to the Conference.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1970
1 September 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General cancels trip to Beijing for medical reasons; Fourth World Conference on Women opens Monday.

* NATO pauses air operations over Bosnia; United Nations and Bosnian Serbs enter negotiations.

* Secretary-General says Bosnian Serbs violated international humanitarian law in Srebrenica.

* High Commissioner for Refugees arrives in East Africa for meetings in Burundi, Tanzania, Zaire and Rwanda.

* French UN civilian police monitor in Haiti shot by unidentified gunman.

* Ambassador of Guyana appeals for increased international assistance to deal with gold mine disaster.

* Subcommission on Minorities ends session in Geneva.

* Six-member Council of State of Liberia is sworn in.

* Speakers at NGO Meeting on Palestine call on Israel to comply with 1993 Declaration of Principles.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has cancelled his trip to Beijing, the Republic of Korea, and Japan for medical reasons. According to his Spokesman, the decision was taken on the strongest possible advice by doctors that he not undertake a trip of this length and nature at this time. He is suffering from the flu and a high fever. The Secretary-General expressed regret at the development; he placed the greatest importance on the Women's Conference and had worked a great deal to ensure its success.

In China, tens of thousands of people have gathered in and around Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women and the parallel NGO Forum.

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The Forum, which began on 30 August and runs to 8 September, is located in Huairou outside of Beijing.

Under-Secretary-General Ismat Kittani will open the official Conference Monday by reading the Secretary-General's statement at 3 p.m. local time. A welcoming ceremony takes place that morning in the Great Hall of the People in the centre of Beijing.

Participants will hold a general exchange of views in plenary session from 4 to 13 September. Parallel to the plenary, a Main Committee will negotiate the draft platform for action, which will then be considered by the plenary on 14 and 15 September, the final days of the Conference.

One of the major challenges before the Fourth World Conference on Women is how to accelerate application of the 1985 Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The draft platform for action, the exact wording of which remains to be agreed upon, aims to establish a basic group of priority actions to be carried out over the next five years. It identifies strategic objectives and actions in 12 critical areas of concern, which relate generally to poverty, education, health, violence, armed conflict, economic structures, power sharing and decision-making, mechanisms to promote the advancement of women; human rights, the media, the environment, and the girl child.

The Fourth World Conference on Women is part of a continuum of international conferences held under United Nations auspices during the current decade to address interrelated problems of economic and social development, human rights and other matters.

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NATO has paused air operations over Bosnia to assess attacks to date, and talks that were underway between the United Nations and the Bosnian Serbs. According to a United Nations Spokesman, the pause was not a suspension of the NATO operation, which would only be suspended when there was full agreement by Bosnian Serbs with United Nations conditions.

UNPF Force Commander Bernard Janvier met today with Bosnian Serb Army General Ratko Mladic to discuss the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the 20-kilometre exclusion zone around Sarajevo, the cessation of all attacks and threats of attacks on United Nations safe areas, and an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Thursday night, targets around Gorazde and Mostar were attacked by NATO aircraft, the Spokesman said. The Rapid Reaction Force continued to target Bosnian Serb positions around Sarajevo. The aim of the operation remained the same -- to remove the threat to the people of Sarajevo. More than 500 sorties had been flown since Wednesday.

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The United Nations had received some reports that Bosnian Serbs were moving some heavy weapons from the exclusion zone. While this was a positive development, it did not constitute an elimination of the threat to Sarajevo; far more was needed. The United Nations estimated that prior to the NATO operation, there were up to 300 Bosnian Serb heavy weapons within the exclusion zone.

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There is significant evidence that Bosnian Serb forces committed substantial violations of international humanitarian law and human rights following the fall of Srebrenica on 11 July, including summary executions. That is the assessment of the Secretary-General in a report to the Security Council dated 30 August, in which he says an in-depth investigation must take place before more detailed and extensive conclusions can be drawn.

Despite repeated requests, Bosnian Serb authorities have refused access to persons who have been displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa. The Secretary-General said the Security Council may wish to reiterate its urgent call to the Bosnian Serb leadership to authorize immediate and full access to the displaced. Such access should include the possibility of an impartial international investigation. Access should also be granted to the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit and register any persons detained against their will.

* * *

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata has arrived in East Africa on her mission, which was requested by the Secretary-General, to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees from Zaire.

According to a United Nations Spokesman, Mrs. Ogata was in Burundi on Friday having a number of internal meetings, primarily with United Nations personnel; she also went to the Zaire border where she saw some 100 volunteer returnees cross the border. On Saturday, she was scheduled to meet with high-level Government officials in Burundi, as well as Tanzanian officials in Arusha. On Monday, Mrs. Ogata was to travel to Rwanda to meet with senior government officials. Tuesday, she was expected to be in the Goma and Bukavu camps and Wednesday should would tentatively meet with senior Zairian officials.

* * *

A French civilian police monitor of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was shot by an unidentified gunman this morning outside of his home southwest of Port au Prince. According to a United Nations Spokesman, he was medically evacuated to Miami, where he was reported to be in critical condition with three bullet wounds and was undergoing surgery.

The Frenchman was the first member of the UN mission to be shot since the United Nations took over on 31 March from the multinational force. An investigation of the incident was underway.

* * *

The Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations today appealed for increased international assistance to help mitigate the effects of the recent gold mine disaster, which had polluted two rivers with cyanide.

Speaking to the press, Ambassador Samuel Insanally said the situation was now under some control. Recent analyses showed that there had been some reduction of contamination. The Government had sent scientists into the area; the company itself had dispatched a team of experts and samples were being taken constantly.

He said the gold mine, a multinational company owned mainly by Canadians and Americans, was the largest in Latin America. Fortunately, there were no reported fatalities but all aquatic life was thought to be dead in the Omai River.

The Government had established a disaster control team, and a commission of inquiry to find out what went wrong. The mine was closed until it was decided that operations could be safely resumed. The economic impact was quite serious, not only for the gold mine itself but also for the Guyanese fishing industry. Some countries in the region had halted imports; however, less than one percent of fish came from the spill area and exports were not contaminated, he said.

Given Guyana's high debt, Ambassador Insanally said it did not have the resources to counter the environmental disaster and needed international assistance to monitor on-going environmental effects. He said the United Nations Development Programme was actively engaged in helping the Government respond to the crisis.

For the long term, he said it was time to develop partnerships with transnational corporations, where all partners had a sense of responsibility. He voiced support for a code of conduct for transnational corporations and said developed countries should assist small developing countries with issues related to environmental and development.

* * *

The forty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has concluded in Geneva. During four-weeks of meetings, the Subcommission adopted more than 50 resolutions and decisions, two Chairman's statements and a joint statement with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

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The Subcommission condemned continued human rights violations in Iraq, Iran, Rwanda, former Yugoslavia, and Kosovo. It passed two measures on the Middle East, one supporting the peace process between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and another calling for respect for human rights in the Israeli occupied Arab territories and compliance by the Palestinian authority with all current international norms in human rights.

The Subcommission recommended that one of its experts be appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to investigate cases of systematic rape during armed conflict, and that the Commission designate an expert to look into allegations of commercial trafficking in human organs and tissues. A joint statement with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called for mobilization of all efforts to eliminate racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, and for the speedy establishment of a permanent international criminal court to prosecute perpetrators of massive violations of human rights.

A statement by the Chairman condemned hostage-taking and the murder of hostages, mentioning, among other particulars, the recent murder of a Norwegian hostage by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. The Subcommission also adopted a resolution on prevention of incitement to hatred and genocide, particularly by the media, noting the role played by a radio station operating from Zaire in inciting racial hatred among Burundi's citizens. The measure condemned "the role increasingly played by some print or audiovisual media in inciting genocidal hatred".

In closing statements, Jose Ayala Lasso, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, called upon States to pay more attention to human rights and to support the efforts of the United Nations. Subcommission Chairman Ioan Maxim (Romania) said serious violations of human rights continued every day, endangering the lives of millions; to better approach current challenges, the Subcommission should give more serious consideration to revising its work methods.

* * *

The six-member Council of State of Liberia was sworn in today, in accordance with last month's peace agreement, according to a United Nations Spokesman . The Council of State will be in power for one year while elections are organized.

The High Commissioner for Refugees says some 12,000 refugees have already returned to Liberia spontaneously within the last month. A UNHCR mission is going to Liberia to assess the requirements and will begin a programme for the voluntary return of up to 800,000 refugees.

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Press Release DH/1970
1 September 1995

Speakers at the United Nations International NGO Meeting and European NGO Symposium in Vienna have called on Israel to meet its responsibilities in compliance with the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1993.

Hashem Mahameed, a member of the Israeli Knesset, said Israel was disregarding the Declaration's two fundamental tenets -- Israeli troop withdrawal and Palestinian sovereignty over territory. A number of speakers supported that view.

Speakers also blamed Jewish settlements, delays in the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian territories and detainment of Palestinian prisoners for the current stalemate in negotiations. The four-day meeting ends today.

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UNITED NATIONS

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5 September 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Securing equality of women and men in law and in fact is twentieth century's great political project, Secretary-General tells Fourth World Conference on Women.

* NATO aircraft strike Bosnian Serb targets after deadline for withdrawal of heavy weapons from around Sarajevo is not met.

* Special Representative Vance to meet with foreign ministers of Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia next week to conclude agreement on outstanding issues.

* More than 10,000 peace-keepers to withdraw from Croatia by mid-December.

* Department of Humanitarian Affairs issues set of proposals for action to resolve crisis in Rwanda's prisons.

* DPI publishes special edition of Yearbook of United Nations to commemorate Organization's fiftieth anniversary.

* * *

Securing the equality of women and men in law and in fact is the great political project of the twentieth century, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In his statement to the Fourth World Conference on Women, which began yesterday in Beijing, he said the United Nations had been entrusted with a crucial role in realizing that project. The Secretary-General's statement was delivered by Special Adviser Ismat Kittani.

While equality before the law was being achieved in many countries, equality in fact remained an elusive goal in all countries, Mr. Boutros-Ghali continued. Discrimination on the basis of gender was widespread, and concrete steps were required to ensure equality of access to education, health care, jobs and political power. He noted that women worked longer hours for less pay and in lower-status jobs than men in almost every country. Seventy per cent of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty in the world were women.

United States First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said today that those who had the opportunity to attend the Conference should speak up for those who could not. She called attention to the plight of women who were raising

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children while earning the minimum wage, those who could not afford health care, and those who were threatened with violence. She stressed that it was no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights.

Meanwhile, Chen Muhua of China has been elected President of the World Conference. Mrs. Chen is Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Eighth National People's Congress of China and President of the Executive Committee of the All-China Women's Federation.

* * *

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aircraft today launched fresh strikes against Bosnian Serb targets after the deadline for the withdrawal of heavy weapons from around Sarajevo was not met. In a statement, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations and NATO had jointly decided to continue the air operation to ensure the safety and security of the Bosnian safe areas. The relevant criterion was whether the Bosnian Serbs were withdrawing their weapons from the 20-kilometre exclusion zone around the Bosnian capital. He warned that the air strikes would only cease when, in the common judgement of United Nations and NATO commanders, the objectives of the operation had been attained.

The Secretary-General reiterated his call to the Bosnian Serbs to quickly bring an end to the bloodshed. The United Nations remained firmly committed to a negotiated and durable solution of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the interests of all its peoples. If the Bosnian Serb military leaders persisted in their intransigence, the Organization would continue to support the use of NATO air power to end the suffering of civilians in the safe areas. "The alternative is a continuation of the NATO air operation, with consequences the Bosnian Serbs fully understand," he stressed. "The choice is theirs."

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts to end the Bosnian conflict were intensifying, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt, each met with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday. Mr. Bildt then went to Zagreb to meet with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and the Commander of United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier. He was in Naples today to confer with NATO Admiral Leighton Smith.

* * *

Special Representative Cyrus Vance will meet in New York next week with the foreign ministers of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to conclude an agreement resolving outstanding issues between the two countries. The agreement will be the culmination of more than two years of mediation efforts under Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993).

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Mr. Vance told correspondents at Headquarters today that the agreement would settle a broad variety of issues, although the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would be the subject of further discussions. He expressed the hope that it would form a basis for good relations between the parties and have a positive effect throughout the region.

* * *

More than 10,300 United Nations Confidence Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) troops will return home over the next eight weeks, a spokesman for the Organization said today. Battalions from Nepal, Argentina, Kenya and Jordan will leave Croatia in the first phase of the withdrawal, followed by troops from Canada, Jordan, Denmark, Ukraine, Poland, the Czech Republic and Bangladesh.

Two battalions of troops from Belgium and the Russian Federation will remain in Croatia, along with some support elements and a headquarters staff. UNCRO will retain its responsibilities with regard to the Prevlaka Peninsula, the monitoring of the international border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Sector East.

* * *

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs has issued a set of proposals for action to resolve the crisis in Rwanda's prisons. It noted that some 50,000 Rwandans were being held in 215 places of detention, and that hundreds had died as a result of overcrowding. Meanwhile, the judicial system remained paralyzed and no genocide trials had begun.

The Department proposed that conditions of detention be improved by: providing slippers, sheeting, clothing and pallets for detainees; accelerating the conversion of six sites into temporary detention centres; and immediately beginning the construction of longer-term detention centres. At the same time, the Rwandan Government should take urgent action aimed at: ensuring proper arrest procedures; establishing a detention policy; strengthening the judicial process; and ensuring the security of released detainees.

* * *

The Department of Public Information (DPI) has published a special edition of the Yearbook of the United Nations to commemorate the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. The special edition covers the entire history of the United Nations and considers present and future challenges. It highlights major achievements in the last 50 years in the areas of international peace and security, development of international law, disarmament and decolonization, as well as in the economic and social fields.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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6 September 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* As Fourth World Conference on Women continues general exchange of views, speakers focus on violence against women, poverty and right to choice; 5,200 delegates and 3,700 NGO representatives participate in Conference.

* NATO continues air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets to ensure removal of heavy weapons from Sarajevo exclusion zone.

* Secretary-General welcomes installation of Council of State and establishment of cease-fire in Liberia; stresses need for national reconciliation, disarmament and demobilization.

* ICRC appeals to donor governments for 153 million Swiss francs to cover operations in 1995; says budget has risen to meet overwhelming humanitarian needs.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council establish Commission of Inquiry to address alleged arms flows to former Rwandan government forces in Great Lakes region.

* UNDP Administrator says Programme is undergoing extensive and rapid reform; proposes 11 per cent volume reduction in gross core budget for 1996-1997.

* * *

The Fourth World Conference on Women today continued its general exchange of views on key issues affecting the realization of the rights of women, with some speakers focusing on violence against women, poverty and the right to choice. The United Kingdom's Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, emphasized the need for a more equal sharing of parental and household responsibilities, as well as the importance of choice for women. She said women's lack of choice perpetuated patterns of gender inequality from one generation to the next.

Mary Ann Glendon of the Holy See expressed support for the affirmation in the draft platform for action that responsibility in sexual matters belonged to both men and women. She said that women were most often the

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victims of irresponsible sexual behaviour, and that their health was threatened by widespread attitudes towards permissiveness. She highlighted the issue of coercion in population politics, stressing that abortion should not be promoted as a means of family planning.

Yesterday, the European Union declared its support for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health for women and men, and indicated that it would welcome an agreement on a reference to sexual rights in the platform for action. Speaking on behalf of the Union, Spanish Minister for Social Affairs Cristina Alberdi stressed the importance of gender-sensitive development cooperation. Gender equality in political decision-making was essential for strengthening democracy, she went on to say.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, told the Conference that health was crucial to economic and social development, and that women's needs must be given priority. Promoting women's health was the surest way of ensuring health for all. He underlined the importance of education, including health education, in enhancing the status of women, adding that education on gender equality must not be directed towards girls alone.

Meanwhile, the Main Committee was continuing negotiations on the draft declaration and platform for action, under the chairmanship of Patricia Licuanan (Philippines). The Committee was supported by two Working Groups, which formed Contact Groups to facilitate progress on the draft declaration and health issues. As of today, a total of 16,552 participants had registered to participate in the Conference, including 5,194 delegates and 3,742 representatives of non-governmental organizations.

In her opening address to the NGO Forum last week, Conference Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella said non-governmental organizations had a vital role to play in the struggle for women's equality. They must work cooperatively with government delegations to produce documents that defined the commitments, actions and accountability of all concerned with women's rights.

* * *

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) today launched further air strikes against Bosnian Serb military installations in a wider zone of action around Sarajevo, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said that there had been no indication that the Bosnian Serbs intended to remove their heavy weapons from the 20-kilometre exclusion zone around the city, and that the air strikes would thus continue. However, rain and low clouds hampered NATO operations today.

The spokesman described the mood in Sarajevo as relaxed, noting that the streets there were crowded with pedestrians. There were only 168 firing incidents yesterday, although an artillery exchange initiated by Bosnian

Government forces last night left two civilians injured. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) issued a formal protest afterwards.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the installation of the Council of State of Liberia on 1 September and the establishment of the cease-fire there on 26 August. In a message to the Chairman of the Council of State, Wilton Sankawulo, he said the country was at an important stage in the process of peace.

The Secretary-General stressed that Liberia's gains must be consolidated through national reconciliation, disarmament and demobilization. He added that he was ready to assist the Council of State in any way he could in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement.

* * *

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today launched a renewed appeal to donor governments for another 153 million Swiss francs ($126 million) to cover its operations in 1995. The ICRC initially appealed for 511 million francs ($422 million) for the year. However, it had to increase its budget to a total of 620 million francs ($512 million) to meet overwhelming humanitarian needs in Chechnya, Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Somalia.

"The donor fatigue of certain governments can place the ICRC in a serious financial crisis, but we remain optimistic that the money needed can be raised," said Christian Kornevall, Head of the ICRC's Communication and External Resources Department.

* * *

The Secretary-General has recommended that the Security Council establish a Commission of Inquiry to address alleged arms flows to former Rwandan government forces in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. In a letter to the Council President issued today, he said the Commission would be an important element in preventing renewed conflict in the region. It would investigate reported violations of the arms embargo imposed by resolutions 918 (1994) and 1011 (1995), and allegations that the former government forces were receiving military training in order to destabilize Rwanda. It would also attempt to identify parties aiding or abetting the illegal acquisition of arms by those forces and recommend measures to deal with the problem.

The Commission would need access to relevant sources of information, the Secretary-General continued. The Council should thus request States, international and other organizations, and private individuals to provide the necessary information and to furnish any other assistance that might be

required. The Commission would also need the full cooperation and support of the governments in whose territories it would conduct investigations.

The Secretary-General would appoint an eminent person as the Commission's Chairman, to be assisted by five to ten legal, military and police experts and the appropriate support staff. The Commission would be financed through the regular budget of the United Nations. However, pending approval of the its budget, Member States would be asked to provide voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Rwanda so that the Commission could begin its work immediately.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in the midst of extensive and rapid reform and the positive results of such change should not be underestimated, according to its Administrator, James Gustave Speth. In a report to the UNDP's Executive Board, which meets at Headquarters next week, he proposed a volume reduction of $52 million in the Programme's gross core budget for 1996-1997, resulting in savings of about 11 per cent. Mr. Speth said his main objective was to maximize resources available for programme and programme support activities.

According to the report, UNDP's core budget has been reduced by a total of $105 million since 1992. Headquarters core staff will have been reduced by 31 per cent, and country offices by 11 per cent. The reduction in headquarters staff includes the elimination of 20 Professional and 30 General Service posts. The post reduction in country offices includes the phasing-out of 85 international Professional posts -- partly offset by an increase of 20 national Professional posts -- and the elimination of 229 General Service posts.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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7 September 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council asks Secretary-General to establish International Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged arms flows to former Rwandan government forces.

* Bosnian Serbs must allow UNHCR and ICRC immediate access to persons displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa, Security Council says.

* Security Council expresses concern at grave situation of persons displaced by recent Croatian offensive and reported violations of international humanitarian law.

* Policy-makers must ensure women have equal access to economic resources and opportunities, UNDP Administrator tells Fourth World Conference on Women.

* NATO continues air attacks around Sarajevo; Contact Group to meet with Foreign Ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Geneva tomorrow.

* Security Council appeals to Abkhaz side to take more constructive and conciliatory stance in upcoming negotiations with Georgia.

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The Security Council today requested the Secretary-General to establish, as a matter of urgency, an International Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged arms flows to former Rwandan government forces in violation of resolutions 918 (1994), 997 (1995) and 1011 (1995). The Commission would also investigate allegations that such forces were receiving military training in order to destabilize Rwanda. It would identify parties aiding and abetting the illegal arms flows and recommend measures to deal with the problem. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1013 (1995).

The Council called on States, United Nations bodies, and humanitarian and non-governmental organizations to make information relating to the Commission's mandate available as soon as possible. It called on States in which the Commission will carry out its mandate to cooperate fully with it, including meeting requests for security, assistance and access. The Council recommended that the Commission begin its work as soon as possible and, to

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that end, requested the Secretary-General to pursue his consultations with the countries of the Great Lakes region.

* * *

In another meeting today, the Security Council strongly condemned the failure of the Bosnian Serbs to comply with resolution 1010 (1995). That resolution demanded that they allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) immediate access to persons displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa. In a statement by its President, Francesco Paolo Fulci (Italy), the Council said the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to cooperate with those agencies could only reinforce its deep concern.

The Council stressed its determination that the fate of the persons displaced from Srebrenica and Zepa be established. It reaffirmed its demand that the Bosnian Serbs give immediate access to such persons in areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina controlled by their forces, and permit ICRC representatives to visit and register any persons detained against their will. The Council also reaffirmed its demand that the Bosnian Serbs fully respect the rights of all such persons, ensure their safety and release them. It asked the Secretary-General to report by 6 October on compliance with resolution 1010 (1995).

* * *

Also today, the Council expressed deep concern at the grave situation of refugees and persons displaced during last month's Croatian offensive, and at reports of violations of international humanitarian law. In a Presidential statement, the Council said it shared the Secretary-General's view that the mass exodus of the local Serb population had created a humanitarian crisis of significant proportions. It demanded that the Croatian Government immediately investigate all reports of human rights violations and take appropriate measures to put an end to them.

The Council reiterated its demand that the Croatian Government fully respect the rights of the local Serb population, including the right to remain or return in safety. It welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to respond to the acute humanitarian situation, and called on all Member States to provide urgent relief and assistance to the refugees and displaced persons.

* * *

As the Fourth World Conference on Women continued in Beijing today, delegates exchanged views on such issues as women's legal rights, the disadvantages girls suffered and the economic disparity between women and men. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), James

Gustave Speth, said women would emerge as the major bread-winners in most societies if their labour were given a proper market value. He urged policy-makers to recognize women's contributions to wealth creation and to ensure equal access to resources and opportunities. Specific targets must be set to move women into decision-making positions, he added.

Assistant Secretary-General Ahmed Sadry of the League of Arab States said any consideration of women's issues was but a consideration of the issues of human society. Women injected enlightened ideas and noble values into the minds of each generation and remained the nucleus of the family and the pillar of family life. Arab governments sought to provide women with due access to education, health care and the exercise of social, economic and political rights. They had also opened the door wide for women to actively participate in the process of advancing the quality of life in society.

* * *

Weather conditions over Sarajevo improved today, permitting unhindered air activity by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), according to a United Nations spokesman. There was no outgoing fire from the Bosnian Government military after the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) warned it not to try to capitalize on the NATO air action.

Meanwhile, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt were in Paris today for a joint meeting of the five-member Contact Group on Bosnia and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group. At least one of the Co-Chairmen will attend tomorrow's meeting of the five-member Contact Group with the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Geneva.

* * *

The President of the Security Council today appealed to the Abkhaz side to take a more constructive and conciliatory stance in upcoming negotiations with Georgia. In a statement to correspondents, he said the Council fully supported the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Envoy and the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. He added that Council members stood ready to consider what help could be provided in the implementation of an agreement between the two sides.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1974
8 September 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* As Security Council reviews sanctions against Iraq, United States says Baghdad is not even close to full compliance with relevant resolutions.

* Fourth World Conference on Women hears Rwandan appeal for international support to overcome trauma of genocide.

* Secretary-General sends Special Adviser Ajello on goodwill mission to help resolve conflict over Nagorny Karabakh.

* NATO launches fresh air strikes against Bosnian Serbs; Rapid Reaction Force shells surface-to-air missile site.

* Russian Federation says NATO air strikes undermine efforts for political settlement of Bosnian conflict.

* Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of ICFY report.

* Department of Humanitarian Affairs appeals for international assistance for Caribbean islands devastated by Hurricane Luis.

* In message for International Literacy Day, Director-General of UNESCO highlights need to educate girls and young women.

* Secretary-General appoints Andronico Adede of Kenya as Registrar of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

* Major-General Rufus Kupolati of Nigeria is named as Chief of Staff of United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

* 1995 Clean Up the World campaign to mark fiftieth anniversary of United Nations by focusing on promoting global environmental cooperation.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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Iraq is not yet close to full compliance with Security Council resolutions, according to the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States, Edward Gnehm. As the Council reviewed the sanctions against Iraq today, he said the Baghdad Government had lied about its weapons of mass destruction for five years, and had only recently admitted having had an extensive biological weapons programme. By its own actions, it was farther than ever from convincing the world that it was ready to rejoin the peaceful community of nations.

Mr. Gnehm stressed that the key to sanctions relief was the unqualified expression -- in word and deed -- of peaceful intentions through full compliance. "The message to Iraq's leaders should be loud and clear: no more deadlines, no more threats of non-cooperation, no more accusations that the Council is carrying out a vendetta against Iraq and its people, no more delay," he concluded.

* * *

Rwanda's Minister for the Promotion of Women, Inyumba Aloysia, has appealed to the international community for support to address the unique situation in her country, where six million people are living with the trauma of genocide. She told the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing that 68 per cent of Rwanda's population were women. There were 500,000 widows and 400,000 orphans, some of whom were abandoned babies of rape. She noted that despite the problems it faced, Rwanda had set up a programme for the legal empowerment of women and children.

Meanwhile, as the NGO Forum in Huairou ended today, some speakers focused on the issues of unpaid work, domestic violence and international law. They called on the international community to recognize the economic contribution women made in growing food and bringing up children. That contribution had been valued at $3 trillion, and accounted for two-thirds of the work done by women.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send his Special Adviser for special assignments on preventive and peace-making efforts, Aldo Ajello, on a goodwill mission in connection with the conflict over Nagorny Karabakh. The purpose of the mission is to demonstrate the Secretary-General's concern about the conflict and to underline his support for the peace-making efforts of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which has the leading role in assisting the peace process.

Mr. Ajello will first travel to Moscow to participate in a meeting of the Minsk Group on 11 and 12 September. He will then visit Baku, Yerevan and

Stepanakert to meet senior officials of the Governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as representatives of the Nagorny Karabakh party. Following his departure from the region, he will have talks with OSCE officials in Vienna. During his mission, Mr. Ajello will study the situation on the ground and discuss how the conflict can be resolved most quickly.

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North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aircraft continued to attack Bosnian Serb military targets today, in the absence of any formal notification that heavy weapons would be withdrawn from the exclusion zone around Sarajevo. The Bosnian Serbs fired a surface-to-air missile at one aircraft, but did not hit it. The Rapid Reaction Force responded with artillery fire against the missile site.

Yesterday, NATO focused on some 20 targets, including logistics, communications and air-defence facilities. Since the start of Operation Deliberate Force, NATO aircraft have flown almost 2,000 sorties.

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The ongoing NATO air strikes and artillery shelling of the Bosnian Serbs undermine efforts for a political settlement, according to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. In a statement transmitted to the Security Council yesterday, he said the attacks went beyond the limits of Security Council decisions and drew the international community into a conflict against one of the Bosnian parties.

While declaring its peace-keeping mission, NATO had, in fact, usurped the role of both judge and bailiff, President Yeltsin continued. Should such a policy continue to be pursued, the Russian Federation would have to carefully weigh its strategy, including its approach to relations with NATO. Meanwhile, it would continue promoting the search for political solutions.

"What is most important now is to abandon the reflex use of force for a balanced approach and collective actions at the negotiating table," he said. "There is a clear understanding of this in Moscow; our partners should also understand it."

* * *

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is meeting its commitment to close its border with Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report on the operations of the Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic, they also concluded that there had been no commercial transshipments across the border between the two countries in the last 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 6 September.

(more)

The Co-Chairmen noted that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had broken off political and economic relations with the "Republika Srpska" on 4 August. The country had also closed its border for all transport towards the "Republika Srpska", except for food, clothing and medicine. In addition, it had prohibited Bosnian Serb leaders from staying in its territory.

* * *

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs has launched an appeal for international assistance for the Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis, which suffered widespread damage as a result of Hurricane Luis earlier in the week. The Department has received reports of extensive damage to housing and public buildings, and disruption of water, electricity and telecommunications systems in Antigua. Dominica reported damage to its banana crop, which is its main export, while St. Kitts and Nevis reported extensive damage to its three main hospitals.

* * *

The prevalence of female illiteracy is unacceptable, and the greatest sacrifices must be made to educate girls and young women, according to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Federico Mayor. In a message on the occasion of International Literacy Day, he said it was vital to educate the women of tomorrow so that they could pass on what they had learned to their children.

Mr. Mayor pledged that UNESCO would step up its action on behalf of education for girls and women throughout the developing world, particularly in Africa. He expressed confidence that the international community meeting in Beijing would make a fresh commitment to supporting that action.

* * *

Andronico Adede of Kenya has been appointed as Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Mr. Adede is the Deputy Director of the Codification Division in the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. In that capacity, he is responsible for dealing with legal and administrative issues relating to the servicing of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly, particularly issues pertaining to the work of the International Law Commission.

* * *

The Secretary-General has appointed Major-General Rufus Modupe Kupolati of Nigeria as Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). The post has been vacant since December 1993. Major-General Kupolati is expected to take up his functions at the beginning of October.

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More than 104 countries are expected to participate in Clean Up the World, a community-based clean-up campaign over the weekend of 15 to 17 September. This year -- the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations -- Clean Up the World will focus on promoting global cooperation through community action for the environment.

The campaign began in Australia six years ago and evolved into a global initiative involving more than 35 million volunteers in 1993. It is organized in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1975
11 September 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General, in report on work of Organization, stresses need to ensure safety of peace-keepers and aid workers, resolve United Nations financial crisis, and secure more funding for development.

* Security Council urges Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to negotiate lasting peace on basis of principles agreed to in Geneva.

* UNPF Commander has inconclusive meeting with Bosnian Serb military leader; NATO launches cruise missiles against Serb targets.

* Delegates at Fourth World Conference on Women expect draft platform for action will be ready for adoption on Thursday.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend MINURSO mandate until 31 January 1996; says Mission must not be withdrawn prematurely.

* * *

The United Nations is responding flexibly to global change and to the changing needs of the international community, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's annual report on the work of the Organization. In that report, he said that calls for reform testified to the recognition by more people than ever before that the United Nations was a truly indispensable element in world affairs. He also identified three immediate problems which must be effectively addressed if the Organization were not to be irreparably damaged as a mechanism for progress.

The Secretary-General stressed that the safety and integrity of United Nations personnel in the field must be respected. When lightly armed peace-keepers or unarmed aid workers were threatened, taken hostage, harmed or killed, the world must act. The credibility of all United Nations peace operations was at stake; to preserve it, personnel must be protected as they carried out their duties.

The Organization's finances must be placed on an adequate and sustainable footing, he continued. The financial crisis continued to deepen

(more)

For information media—not an official record

because Member States delayed payment of their assessed contributions. Without substantial additional major contributions before the end of the year, the Organization's cash balance would be dangerously low. The crisis had a direct impact on efficiency and made effective management more difficult. Calls for ever-greater United Nations effectiveness under conditions of financial penury made no sense.

The Secretary-General noted that funds for development were drying up. That was a consequence of the end of the cold war, of the competing demands of peace-keeping and development for scarce resources, and of donor fatigue. The willingness to spend money on containing conflicts, while necessary and admirable, was not enough. Without funding for development, the cycle of strife, stand-off and more strife would continue. To break that cycle, sustainable human development must be instituted everywhere. A new vision of development, and a universal commitment to it, was indispensable for world progress, he concluded.

* * *

The Security Council has urged Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to negotiate in good faith for a lasting peace based on the declaration adopted by them at the meeting with the Contact Group in Geneva on Friday. The Council took that action in a statement by its President, Francesco Paolo Fulci (Italy), on Friday night.

At the meeting in Geneva, the parties agreed on the basic principles for a peace accord, including the continued existence of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its present international borders. They agreed that the country should consist of two democratic entities -- the existing Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 51 per cent of the territory, and the Republica Srpska, with 49 per cent.

Also on Friday, the Council discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Speakers welcomed the Geneva agreement, but expressed divergent views on the continued air strikes by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the shelling of Bosnian Serb targets by the Rapid Reaction Force. The Russian Federation said that those attacks undermined efforts for a political settlement, and that the use of force had not been preceded by the necessary consultations. The United States said that the international community had no choice but to respond robustly to the recent Bosnian Serb attack on the Sarajevo marketplace, and that the air strikes would end as soon as the Council resolutions were implemented.

* * *

NATO has been continuing its air operations over Bosnia and yesterday used sea-launched cruise missiles against Bosnian Serb targets for the first time, according to a United Nations spokesman. The targets included air

(more)

defence systems, radio communications and ammunition storage sites. The Bosnian Serbs fired 10 artillery rounds at the United Nations base at Tuzla airport, slightly injuring one peace-keeper. NATO aircraft responded by attacking Serb artillery positions in the area.

Meanwhile, the Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier, had an "inconclusive" meeting with the Bosnian Serb military commander, General Ratko Mladic, in Belgrade, the spokesman said. He noted that there was no indication that the Serbs were withdrawing their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo.

* * *

Delegates at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing reported that progress had been made over the weekend in negotiations on the draft platform for action. It was anticipated that the Main Committee would conclude its work on Wednesday, and that the draft would be adopted on Thursday. The remaining unresolved issues related to parental responsibilities in the area of sexual and reproductive health, abortion laws, and sexual rights, including non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Meanwhile, the Conference decided to extend its general debate until Wednesday to allow more representatives of non-governmental organizations to take the floor. Several speakers today highlighted the importance of valuing the unpaid work done by women, including work done in the home.

* * *

The Secretary-General has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 January 1996. In a report dated 8 September, he said that progress in implementing the settlement plan had been disappointing in the last three months, and recalled the Council's warning that the process could not continue indefinitely. However, he stressed that premature withdrawal of MINURSO would have very grave implications for the parties and for the whole subregion and must be avoided if at all possible.

The report called attention to the results achieved in the identification of voters over the past year. Over 40 per cent of the applicants in the Territory, and half of those in the refugee camps, had been identified. Meanwhile, a detailed programme for the identification of most of the remaining applicants had been prepared. If both parties cooperated fully, the process in all four refugee camps and three of the four centres in the Territory (with the exception of Laayoune) could be completed in around five weeks. The Secretary-General appealed to the parties to make every effort to permit the expeditious implementation of the settlement plan in order to reach a just and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara.

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NITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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12 September 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations regular budget ran out of cash in mid-August, Administrative and Budgetary Committee is told; Secretary-General implements several cost-cutting measures.

* Secretary-General to visit China in March 1996 at invitation of Chinese Government.

* Gertrude Mongella says women have come to Fourth World Conference on Women not as victims but as problem solvers.

* NATO continues air operations over Bosnia in clear weather; UNCRO reports Croatian Army build-up in Sectors North and South, with troop movements towards Bosnian border.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNOMIL mandate until 31 January 1996; deploys 42 extra observers to monitor cease-fire and disengagement of forces in Liberia.

* Japan pledges $18 million for UNRWA's 1995 regular programme and Peace Implementation Programme.

* UNESCO appoints German racing driver Michael Schumacher as Special Envoy for Education and Sports.

* * *

The regular budget of the United Nations ran out of cash in mid-August, and has had to borrow around $98 million from peace-keeping operations, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, Joseph Connor, said today. He told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) that Member States now owed the Organization more than $3.7 billion in assessments. Unless significant contributions were made, the regular budget would have to borrow almost $200 million by the end of October, and nearly $300 million by the end of November.

The financial situation was particularly bleak this year as the amounts involved were unprecedented, Mr. Connor continued. Furthermore, the payment

from one major contributor was expected to be made much later this year than in previous years. As a result, the United Nations had been unable to reimburse troop-contributing countries. It owed about $900 million to Member States for troops and equipment; if the situation continued, the amount owed could exceed $1.2 billion by the end of the year.

The Secretary-General had taken some immediate steps to conserve cash, Mr. Connor noted. They included a freeze on recruitment; severe limits on overtime and staff travel; suspension of new consultancies and purchases of equipment; delay in payments to vendors; and monthly payment of professional salaries. Further measures were being considered, some of which would have to be approved by Member States. He stressed, however, that those measures could not substitute for full payment of assessments by Member States.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has accepted an invitation from the Chinese Government to visit China in March 1996. The Secretary-General had planned to visit Beijing from 2 to 6 September, during which he would have held meetings with Chinese leaders and opened the Fourth World Conference on Women. However, he was unable to make that visit due to a severe attack of influenza.

* * *

The Fourth World Conference on Women is on track and should end, as scheduled, on Friday with the adoption of the draft platform for action, Conference Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella said today. She stressed that women were not addressing the Conference as victims, but had come to Beijing armed with strategies for solving problems. Meanwhile, delegates involved in negotiations on the draft reported considerable progress on the issue of women's health, including references to sexual rights and punitive measures for illegal abortion.

Yesterday, Dorothy Blake of the World Health Organization (WHO) told the Conference that HIV/AIDS was now spreading fastest among women. Speaking as a co-sponsor of the United Nations inter-agency programme on HIV/AIDS, she warned that an estimated 16 million women would be infected with the disease by the year 2000. Education was the most important aspect of prevention, she stressed.

K. Burke Dillon of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that economic adjustment programmes -- particularly those involving agriculture and opening up markets for small and micro enterprises -- had often been of direct benefit to women. Adjustment programmes could also benefit women and children through redirecting public expenditure. The IMF consistently urged

governments to reduce unproductive expenditure, including military spending, and redirect it towards education, health and nutrition.

* * *

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) today continued air operations over Bosnia and Herzegovina in clear weather, according to a United Nations spokesman. There was no change in the situation on the ground around Sarajevo, where 348 firing incidents were recorded yesterday. The Bosnian Serbs continued to deny the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) access to a hospital west of the city which they alleged had been shelled by the Rapid Reaction Force on Friday.

Meanwhile, the situation was quiet in the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) mission area. However, UNCRO noted a Croatian Army build-up in Sectors North and South, and significant troop movements towards the Bosnian border.

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The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 31 January 1996, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 9 September, he said the prospects for peace in Liberia were better now than they had been at any time since the outbreak of the civil war. The timely implementation of the cease-fire and the installation of the Council of State indicated a renewed commitment by the Liberian parties to the peaceful resolution of the conflict. Meanwhile, a new spirit of cooperation seemed to have emerged between the parties and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The parties must continue to demonstrate their commitment to peace through concrete deeds, the Secretary-General continued. They should make every effort to complete the disengagement, assembly, disarmament and demobilization of their forces. Should they fail at any time to fulfil their commitments under the Abuja Agreement, the Security Council would be invited to reconsider UNOMIL's involvement in the peace process. While success in that process depended primarily on the goodwill of the parties, the international community should help put Liberia on the path to recovery.

The Secretary-General said he intended to immediately increase UNOMIL's military component by 42 observers to enable it to monitor the cease-fire and the disengagement of forces. Meanwhile, the Mission would continue to work with the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) on the adoption of a joint concept of operations. That concept would include measures to enhance cooperation between UNOMIL and ECOMOG and to enable them to carry out their respective roles more effectively.

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Japan has pledged $18 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The pledge includes $11 million for the Agency's regular programme in 1995, $500,000 for university scholarships for refugee students, and $6.5 million for the Peace Implementation Programme (PIP).

* * *

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has appointed German racing driver Michael Schumacher as its Special Envoy for Education and Sports. Mr. Schumacher is the second famous sports star to be named to an honourary function at UNESCO. The Brazilian soccer player Pele (Edson Arantes do Nascimento) was appointed UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador in 1994.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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13 September 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Foreign Ministers of Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia sign Interim Accord at Headquarters.

* Security Council expresses deep concern about intensified military activities by Bosnian parties and plight of civilian population.

* Secretary-General to meet with senior United Nations officials at Headquarters on Saturday to discuss diplomatic and military options in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Secretary-General expresses deep concern after violence at commune in north-west Rwanda leaves 109 people dead.

* Delegates at Fourth World Conference on Women report steady progress in negotiations on draft platform for action.

* UNHCR appeals for $28 million for repatriation and integration of Ethiopian and Somali refugees.

* Secretary-General calls for urgent support for implementation of Convention to Combat Desertification.

* * *

The Foreign Ministers of Greece and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Karolos Papoulias and Stevo Crvenkovski, today signed an Interim Accord establishing a new relationship between the two countries. Announcing the signing at Headquarters, Special Envoy Cyrus Vance said the relationship would be based on concepts of international law and peaceful, friendly relations.

The Accord provides that each party will respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the other, and confirms their common existing frontier as an enduring and inviolable international border. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will cease to use the symbol now on its national flag, while Greece will terminate the measures imposed by it on 16 February 1994.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The steps necessary to fully implement the Accord will commence immediately, while the operative provisions will take effect 30 days from today. The parties will continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General with respect to the outstanding difference between them referred to in relevant Security Council resolutions.

* * *

The Security Council today expressed deep concern about the intensified military activities by the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as about the plight of the civilian population. In a statement to correspondents by its President, Francesco Paolo Fulci (Italy), the Council called on the parties to immediately cease all offensive military activities and hostile acts.

The Council reiterated that there could be no military solution to the Bosnian conflict. It expressed full support for the Geneva Declaration of Principles of 8 September, which provided a basis for negotiations for a lasting peace throughout the region.

There were reports today that Bosnian Government troops had taken the town of Donji Vakuf, in central Bosnia, from Serb forces. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said it could not confirm those reports, but added that it had observed large troop movements in the region. Meanwhile, there was a high level of military activity in north-east Bosnia, with over 1,200 detonations recorded.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has invited Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, United Nations negotiator Thorvald Stoltenberg and General Bernard Janvier to meet with him at Headquarters on Saturday, a United Nations spokesman announced today. The meeting will discuss all options, both diplomatic and military, now on the table in Bosnia and Herzegovina, focusing on the Organization's future diplomatic role.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali spoke with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Willy Claes, last night, the spokesman noted. He stressed that there was no difference of opinion between the two Secretaries-General on the overall tactics being pursued.

* * *

The Secretary-General has expressed deep concern about an incident which occurred in Kanama commune, near Gisenyi in north-west Rwanda, during the night of 11 to 12 September. According to preliminary reports from the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), 109 people, including women and children, were killed in attacks at three sites in the commune. Infiltrators and saboteurs

(more)

from Zaire have been active in the predominantly Hutu area over the past six months.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali welcomed the establishment of a Joint Investigation Team, including UNAMIR and Rwandan representatives and United Nations human rights monitors. He hoped the investigation would promptly ascertain the facts and recommend measures to prevent the recurrence of such an incident, which could only exacerbate tensions in the area and undermine efforts to promote peace and stability in Rwanda and the sub-region.

* * *

Delegates at the Fourth World Conference on Women today reported further progress in negotiations on the draft platform for action. Regarding the issue of sexual rights, governments agreed that a child's right to information, privacy and confidentiality should be taken into account along with the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents. They also decided that women's human rights included the right to control over their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has been following the Conference very carefully, and has maintained regular contact with Special Adviser Ismat Kittani, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said the Secretary-General was very pleased with the way the Conference and the negotiations on the draft documents were developing.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today appealed to donor countries for $28 million for the repatriation and integration of Ethiopian and Sômali refugees through the end of the year. The agency said contributions to those programmes had been extremely poor and many activities had been curtailed. Without sustained support, it warned, progress might be set back and refugee camps in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan would need funding indefinitely.

* * *

With more than 900 million people living under the shadow of desertification and drought, the Secretary-General has called for urgent support for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. In a report to the General Assembly, he said it was especially important to support immediate measures in Africa. Affected countries needed to launch a range of activities, most notably the preparation of new national action programmes.

The Secretary-General appealed to donors to increase multilateral funding for the Convention and to support sub-regional programmes and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Fund to Combat Desertification and Drought. He also appealed for the active involvement of non-governmental organizations in the Convention's implementation.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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14 September 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretaries-General of United Nations and NATO call on Bosnian parties to cease all offensive military activities and hostile acts immediately.

* General Assembly sets up working group to review proposals to revitalize and reform United Nations system; extends MINUGUA mandate until 18 March 1996.

* Secretary-General says reported incidence of rape and sexual violence in former Yugoslavia has declined, but international community must remain vigilant.

* Member States owed United Nations $3.8 billion as of 31 August; $850 million owed to regular budget and $2.95 billion owed to peace-keeping.

* Department of Humanitarian Affairs receives $500,000 in contributions to assist Caribbean islands devastated by Hurricane Luis.

* UNRWA Commissioner-General expresses concern about reports Palestinians are being forced to leave Libya.

* Review Conference of States Parties to Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to begin in Vienna on 25 September, with focus on problem of land-mines.

* * *

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary-General Willy Claes today expressed deep concern about the recent intensification of military activities by the Bosnian parties, particularly in the western parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They said they were disturbed by the reported exodus of large numbers of civilians from the affected areas.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Secretaries-General called on the parties to immediately cease all offensive military activities and hostile acts in Bosnia. As the United Nations Security Council and the North Atlantic Council had repeatedly emphasized, there could be no military solution to the conflict there. They affirmed their full support for the ongoing efforts to find a political solution which would bring lasting peace throughout the region.

The military situation was active in various parts of Bosnia today, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, reports of large territorial gains by the Bosnian Army and Croatian forces could not be confirmed. As many as 40,000 Bosnian Serbs could have been displaced by the fighting in the north-west part of the country, while another 5,000 could have been affected in the north-east.

* * *

The General Assembly today established an open-ended high-level working group to review proposals to revitalize, strengthen and reform the United Nations system. The working group will conduct its substantive work in the fiftieth session and report no later than 14 September 1996. Assembly President Amara Essy (Cote d'Ivoire) said the consensus resolution reflected the importance Member States attached to enhancing the role of the United Nations. The working group was to be funded from existing resources, supplemented by a trust fund. The trust fund would be used to acquire the services of experts, and Member States should contribute to it.

In other actions, the Assembly renewed the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) until 18 March 1996; confirmed the appointment of Rubens Ricupero of Brazil as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for a four-year term; and decided to place Belarus, as a special interim arrangement, in the group of least developed countries for the purpose of apportioning peace-keeping expenses, thus reducing its assessments for those operations.

* * *

Reports of rape and sexual violence in the former Yugoslavia continue to be received, although to a lesser extent than earlier in the conflict, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the General Assembly, he stressed that the international community should remain vigilant to ensure that sexual atrocities against women, children and men did not recur on the scale reported in 1992 and 1993.

The Secretary-General said it was difficult to assess the actual numbers of individuals who had been raped or sexually abused as victims were often reluctant to report such experiences. Available information indicated that rape had been committed by all sides. However, the largest number of reported

victims had been Bosnian Muslims, and the largest number of alleged perpetrators had been Bosnian Serbs.

* * *

Member States owed the United Nations a total of $3.8 billion as of 31 August, up from $2.61 billion as of 31 July, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Some $850 million was owed to the regular budget and $2.95 billion was for peace-keeping. The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $527 million to the regular budget and $1.07 billion to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed $21 million to the regular budget and $571 million to peace-keeping.

The spokesman noted that some significant payments had been made to the peace-keeping budget this month, including $68 million by Germany, $7 million by Finland, $14.5 million by Sweden and $6 million by Austria. "If other Member States would follow this example we would be very happy," he added.

* * *

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs has received almost $500,000 from donors and governments to assist the Caribbean islands devastated by Hurricane Luis. The islands mainly need reconstruction materials -- particularly for roofing and water supplies -- and generators.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is playing a coordinating role for the Department, while the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is concerned with water and sanitation problems and vaccinations. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is responding to the overall health situation.

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The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ilter Turkmen, has expressed concern about reports that Palestinians are having to leave Libya. As a result of the Libyan action, several countries in the Agency's area of operations are imposing restrictions on the entry of Palestinians, even on those who have rights of residence.

Mr. Turkmen said the situation called for immediate attention. UNRWA was ready to provide humanitarian assistance and would strive to prevent hardship for the refugees by intervening with the governments concerned.

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The Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons will take place in Vienna from 25 September to 13

(more)

October. The Conference will focus on the Convention's Protocol on the use of land-mines, which encompasses the use of booby-traps such as exploding toys.

The Review Conference is seen as an important step in efforts to stop or restrict the use of land-mines, which kill or maim 20,000 civilians every year and set back agricultural development and endanger returning refugees. There are an estimated 110 million live mines scattered in 64 countries, and more are being set than are being removed. The Secretary-General highlighted the problem in his 1995 Supplement to An Agenda for Peace.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Fourth World Conference on Women concludes with adoption of Platform for Action; Secretary-General urges international community to effectively implement agenda for empowerment of women.

* NATO and United Nations suspend air strikes in Bosnia and Herzegovina after Serb leaders undertake to withdraw heavy weapons from Sarajevo exclusion zone.

* Security Council extends UNOMIL mandate until 31 January 1996; welcomes Abuja Agreement, installation of Council of State and cease-fire in Liberia.

* Security Council extends suspension of certain sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for six months.

* Interim Accord between Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will encourage stability in region, Security Council says.

* Secretary-General announces composition of five-member Commission of Inquiry for Burundi.

* United Nations increases inter-agency funding target for humanitarian operations in former Yugoslavia to $515 million.

* Secretary-General, in Staff Day address, says United Nations staff are precious asset; stresses importance of ongoing reform of Organization.

* Forty-eighth annual DPI/NGO Conference to be held at Headquarters from 18 to 20 September.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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The Fourth World Conference on Women concluded today by adopting a Platform for Action calling for the protection and promotion of women's human rights as an integral part of human rights. In a closing statement delivered by Special Representative Ismat Kittani, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali described the Platform for Action as a powerful agenda for the empowerment of women. He stressed that it must be disseminated and implemented globally, regionally and locally.

The Platform focused on concrete measures to address critical areas of concern worldwide, the Secretary-General continued. It called for action to: eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women; remove the obstacles to women's full participation in public life and decision-making; eliminate all forms of violence against women; ensure equal access to education and health services; promote economic autonomy for women; and encourage an equitable sharing of family responsibilities.

The United Nations had a key role to play in the follow-up to the Conference, the Secretary-General said. He pledged that recommendations addressed to him would be implemented swiftly and effectively. He called on all governments to accede to and ratify United Nations human rights instruments and labour conventions -- particularly the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. "Let us work together to implement the Platform for Action adopted here at Beijing," he concluded. "Let us tell the world -- and let us tell it with pride: the empowerment of women is the empowerment of all humanity!"

* * *

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United Nations last night suspended NATO air strikes in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a three-day period after Bosnian Serb leaders committed themselves to withdrawing their heavy weapons from the 20-kilometre exclusion zone around Sarajevo. At the end of the three-day period, NATO and United Nations military commanders will assess the level of Serb compliance with that commitment. Failure to comply, or attacks on the other safe areas, will lead to the resumption of air operations.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Sector Commander in Sarajevo today visited the Lukavica military compound to oversee the assembly of weapons by the Bosnian Serbs. Meanwhile, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoy reached the city via the Kiseljak road without being stopped at any Serb check-points. At the same time, a French aircraft landed at Sarajevo airport. It was the first flight into the Bosnian capital since 9 April.

* * *

Welcoming the Abuja Agreement of 19 August, the installation of the new Council of State and other steps in the Liberian peace process, the Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 31 January 1996. By unanimously adopting resolution 1014 (1995), the Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to deploy an additional 42 number military observers to monitor the cease-fire and disengagement of forces there.

The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to submit, by the end of October, recommendations on the new concept of UNOMIL operations. He should address measures to enhance the relationship between the Mission and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), aspects of disarmament and demobilization, and the resources which UNOMIL would require to carry out its tasks effectively. The Council also welcomed his intention to send a mission to consult with Liberian leaders and other parties on the requirements to implement the Abuja Agreement.

The Council urged Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund for Liberia and to provide financial, logistical and other assistance to ECOMOG to enable it to carry out its mandate. It encouraged Member States, particularly African countries, to consider providing troops to the expanded ECOMOG.

* * *

In a second meeting today, the Security Council extended the suspension of certain sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for six months until 18 March 1996. It took that action, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 1015 (1995).

Restrictions on air travel, maritime traffic, sporting events and cultural exchanges were originally suspended by resolution 943 (1994) for 100 days, provided that the border between the Federal Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina were closed. The suspension was subsequently extended by resolutions 970 (1995), 988 (1995) and 1003 (1995).

* * *

The Security Council today welcomed the signing of the Interim Accord by Greece and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In a statement by its President, Francesco Paolo Fulci (Italy), the Council said it looked forward to the establishment of a new relationship between the parties based on international law and peaceful, friendly relations. It believed the Accord would promote stability in the region.

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The Council commended both parties, the Secretary-General, Special Envoy Cyrus Vance, and United States envoy Matthew Nimetz for their efforts in bringing about the Interim Accord, pursuant to resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993). It encouraged them to continue their efforts to resolve the remaining differences between the parties, and urged the parties to implement fully the Accord.

* * *

The Secretary-General has appointed the following as members of the Commission of Inquiry for Burundi: Abde El Ali El Moumni (Morocco), Mehmet Guney (Turkey), Luis Herrera Marcano (Venezuela), Michel Maurice (Canada), and Edilbert Razafindralambo (Madagascar). The Commission, which will be chaired by Mr. Razafindralambo, is expected to leave for Burundi around mid-October.

The Commission's mandate, according to Security Council resolution 1012 (1995), is: (a) to establish the facts relating to the assassination of the President of Burundi in 1993, the massacres and other serious acts of violence which followed; and (b) to recommend measures, after consultation with the Government of Burundi, to prevent any repetition of similar deeds and, in general, to eradicate impunity and promote national reconciliation in Burundi.

* * *

The United Nations inter-agency funding target for assistance to the former Yugoslavia has been increased to $515 million because of a dramatic escalation in humanitarian needs there. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs launched a revised appeal for $470 million in May, but the number of internally displaced persons and refugees in the region has since risen by more than 280,000. More than 3.5 million people in the former Yugoslavia receive United Nations assistance.

In a supplement to the 1995 consolidated inter-agency appeal, United Nations agencies have asked donors for additional funds to cover new and adjusted assistance programmes. Taking into account the adjusted shortfalls in contributions received by the end of August, the agencies need $90 million to fund assistance until the end of the year.

* * *

The Secretary-General today paid tribute to the staff of the United Nations, describing them as a precious asset. In his annual Staff Day address, he said he would work to preserve that asset and, where possible, to enhance its value and effectiveness. As part of the ongoing process of reform of the Organization, staff members would be helped to sharpen and update their skills as necessary.

(more)

Member States wanted a leaner and more efficient Secretariat, which responded promptly to their needs and concentrated on necessary tasks, he continued. That was why a new management culture was needed. The aim was to define goals for the United Nations and to determine the exact function of each staff member in the achievement of them. The process of reform was not assisted by the current financial crisis, and sacrifices would be required from all.

"We are privileged to be taking part in the building of a better world," the Secretary-General went on to say. "Let us pledge ourselves anew to work untiringly to improve and perfect the instruments of international cooperation. We are at the very centre of an historical movement to bring lasting peace, development and security to all humankind."

* * *

The forty-eighth annual NGO Conference organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) will take place at Headquarters from 18 to 20 September. The Conference is held in cooperation with the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the DPI.

The theme of the 1995 DPI/NGO Conference is, "The United Nations at the turn of the century: global issues; global actors; global responsibility." Participants will highlight successful strategies for applying international agreements at the regional, national and local levels, focusing on the integration of younger generations in the process.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General meets with senior advisers to review situation in former Yugoslavia; reiterates support for United States peace overture in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* United Nations and NATO extend suspension of air strikes against Bosnian Serbs for 72 hours, citing ongoing withdrawal of heavy weapons from Sarajevo exclusion zone.

* General Assembly concludes forty-ninth session by adopting resolution on assistance to Caribbean countries devastated by Hurricane Luis.

* Secretary-General says inter-Tajik talks have entered most complicated and decisive phase; calls on parties to comply strictly with cease-fire agreement.

* NGOs have crucial role to play in advancing process of democratization, Secretary-General tells forty-eighth annual DPI/NGO Conference.

* UNICEF Executive Board begins third regular session of 1995 at Headquarters.

* United Nations attempts to secure release of 21 aid workers trapped after Somali faction attacks city of Baidoa.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with senior advisers at Headquarters on Saturday to reassess the situation in the former Yugoslavia and to receive a progress report on current developments. Among those present at the meeting were Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg; and the Deputy Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), Major-General Barry Ashton.

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The Secretary-General reiterated his support for the United States peace overture in Bosnia and Herzegovina and welcomed the important agreements it had already achieved. He reviewed the various options for international support for implementation of the peace agreement which now seemed to be in prospect. Relevant considerations were re-examined, paying special attention to the Organization's deepening financial crisis. The Secretary-General today sent a letter to the President of the Security Council regarding the outcome of the meeting.

* * *

The United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) last night extended the suspension of air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs for another 72 hours. UNPF Commander General Bernard Janvier and Admiral Leighton Smith of NATO said in a joint statement that the Serbs had shown a substantial start towards withdrawing their heavy weapons from the 20-kilometre exclusion zone around Sarajevo. The additional 72 hours would permit them to completely relocate their heavy weapons and would allow for a continuation of unimpeded road and air access to the city.

The way was now clear for the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to meet with Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government commanders to formalize the cessation of hostilities agreement within the Sarajevo exclusion zone, the statement continued. The group would also discuss the extension of a cessation of hostilities country-wide within the context of the overall momentum towards a peace agreement. Meanwhile, the Serbs must fully respect their commitments or the air strikes would resume.

A United Nations spokesman today reported that the Serbs had withdrawn 50 to 60 per cent of their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo. The situation in the city was stable, with only 73 firing incidents recorded in the past 24 hours. Fourteen flights landed at Sarajevo airport yesterday and nine more were planned for today. At the same time, United Nations vehicles were using roads into and out of the city without incident.

However, the spokesman expressed concern about the situation in western Bosnia, where the recent offensive by Bosnian Government and Croat forces had created a major refugee crisis. Up to 100,000 refugees were said to be fleeing the fighting and clogging the roads around Banja Luka. Last week, the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and NATO called on the parties to immediately cease all offensive military activities and hostile acts, emphasizing that there could be no military solution to the conflict.

* * *

The General Assembly today concluded its forty-ninth session by adopting a resolution on assistance to four Caribbean countries devastated by Hurricane Luis. The Assembly urged all States to contribute to relief and reconstruction efforts in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Montserrat and Saint

Kitts and Nevis. It also requested the Secretary-General to assist the Governments of those countries in identifying their needs and in mobilizing resources.

In his closing statement, General Assembly President Amara Essy (Cote d'Ivoire) said that due to its universal character, the Assembly was the most competent United Nations organ for dialogue and conflict prevention. It was a venue par excellence for solving regional problems and pursuing regional peace, a precondition for development worldwide. Therefore, the Organization should be given the financial and other resources it needed to maintain peace.

Summing up the achievements of the forty-ninth session, the President said the Assembly had adopted 328 resolutions and three instruments in the legal and political areas. It had created working groups to enhance the work of the United Nations in preparation for the next century and admitted Palau as the Organization's 185th Member State. It had also been addressed by some 45 heads of State and government.

* * *

The signing of the protocol on the principles for establishing peace in Tajikistan and the extension of the Tehran Cease-fire Agreement for six months are clear proof that the Tajik parties want to resolve their problems peacefully, according to the Secretary-General. However, in a report to the Security Council dated 16 September, he noted that breaches of the Agreement had continued. He called on the parties to comply strictly with their obligations, including the cessation of all acts of violence within Tajikistan and on the Afghan border.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali underlined the need to maintain momentum in the inter-Tajik talks. He had suggested that the parties next meet at United Nations premises in Vienna; the Tajik opposition had replied positively, and he hoped the Government would do likewise. The talks had entered their most complicated and decisive phase, and no time should be lost. He emphasized that the parties bore the primary responsibility for resolving their differences and ensuring their country's future.

In another development, a United Nations military observer was killed today amid fighting between two brigades of the Tajik Army. The unarmed observer -- an Austrian lieutenant-colonel -- was in a clearly marked United Nations vehicle at the time of his death. The Secretary-General expressed his condolences to the observer's family and to the Government of Austria.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today that non-governmental organizations were one of the strongest expressions of a vigorous global civil society. They had a crucial role to play in advancing the process of democratization and were themselves manifestations of that process, he told

the forty-eighth annual Department of Public Information (DPI) Conference for NGOs. The theme of the Conference is, "The United Nations at the turn of the century: global issues; global actors; global responsibility."

NGOs could mobilize public support for democracy and broaden debate and expand participation in discussion of critical issues, he continued. They could also help to build democratic institutions and practices within States and among States, and increasingly did so in cooperation with the United Nations. NGOs could monitor threats to democratic freedoms at home and throughout the world, while fully respecting national sovereignty. They made it possible for individuals and groups to mobilize for common purposes and common ideals, he concluded.

* * *

The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today began its third regular session of 1995 at Headquarters. Board members will examine an updated health strategy for UNICEF, highlighting its achievements in health over the years, outlining new directions for achieving the goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children, and calling for a new focus on women and teenagers.

During the one-week session, the Executive Board will also discuss progress following UNICEF's management review and its audit of the Kenya country office, budget proposals for the 1996-1997 biennium and follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development.

* * *

Twenty-one international aid workers have been trapped in Baidoa, Somalia, following an attack on the city by General Mohamed Farah Aideed's forces, a United Nations spokesman reported today. He said the workers -- 17 UNICEF staff members and four CARE staff members -- were in their offices and were not in any immediate danger. However, there had been widespread looting of humanitarian facilities in Baidoa, and the United Nations was taking measures to extricate them peacefully.

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